

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A process for preparation of substantially pure desloratadine having a purity greater than 99.9%, comprising acidic hydrolysis of a compound of formula 3, where R is ~~selected from COR₁, COOR₁, wherein and R₁ is ethyl selected from~~ branched or linear alkyl containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl and their substituted analogs; comprising

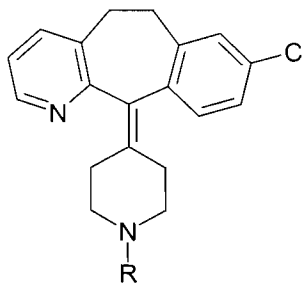
heating the compound of formula 3 in the presence of ~~a strong organic acid or a mineral acid for about 1 hour to about 24 hours~~ methane sulphonic acid for 5-15 hours at about 90° to 120°C,

adjusting the pH of the hydrolysed reaction mixture to about 3 to 5,

~~optionally~~ treating the pH adjusted reaction mixture with an adsorbent,

adjusting the pH of the reaction mixture to greater than about 9, and

isolating desloratadine by recrystallization from a solvent system comprising a mixture of an alcohol and a hydrocarbon solvent



Formula 3.

9–14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein adsorbent is selected from charcoal, neutral or alkaline alumina, silica and fuller's earth.

16–18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim ~~[[18]]~~ 8, wherein alcohol is methanol and hydrocarbon solvent is cyclohexane.

20. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the ratio of methanol:cyclohexane is 1:14 v/v.

21–22. (Cancelled)